Formation of Tourism Development Finance Corporation

1537. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a Tourism Development Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the objectives of this Corporation;

(c) whether it has started its operational activities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the extent of work done in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Customs Duty on Pressure Cooker

1538. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Pressure Cooker Industries Association have urged Government to give relief in customs duty on aluminium circles which is the main raw material used in manufacture of pressure cookers; and

(b) in view of the fact that pressure cookers are now used by a large number of people including those living in rural areas whether Government are considering giving relief in customs duty on aluminium circles to help the pressure cooker industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Aluminium circles attract basic customs duty @25 per cent. ad valorem. At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration to further reduce the customs duty on aluminium circles.

Power Supply to Karnataka from Central Pool

1539. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka is facing acute power shortage; if so, the extent thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to supply power from Central Pool to tide over the crisis; and

(c) if so, the total MW of power to be supplied to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) During the period April—October, 1995 the energy and peaking shortage in Karnataka was 14.6% and 19.9% respectively.

(b) and (c) During the period April—October, 1995, entitlement *vis-a-vis* actual drawal by Karnataka from the central sector stations in the Southern region is given below:— Entitlement— 2167.2 MU Actual Drawal— 2326.2 MU

To reduce the shortage in Karnataka, the State's share of power from the unallocated power of central generating stations in Southern region has been increased from 20% to 30% with effect from 30-11-95. In addition to this, allocation of 70 MW out of the 100 MW allotted to the Southern Region from the unallocated power of central stations in Western Region has been made for Karnataka. Karnataka has also made arrangements with Maharashtra for assistance of 300 MW during off-peak period. Karnataka has also entered into bilateral agreement with Tamil Nadu to avail assistance from Tamil Nadu of about 125 MW radially.

Development of Forts and Palaces as Hotels

1540. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. have received proposals from some State Governments for the development of forts and palaces in their states as hotels;

(b) if so, the State Government, who have submitted such proposals; and

(c) the details of action initiated by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. The conversion/ development of old forts and palaces into hotels